
This is a reproduction of a library book that was digitized by Google as part of an ongoing effort to preserve the information in books and make it universally accessible.

Google[™] books

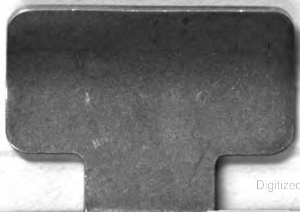
<http://books.google.com>



3455

b 55

INSTRUCTIONS &c.
FOR
AFFLICTED CHRISTIANS



3455.6.55.

1. 3. 21

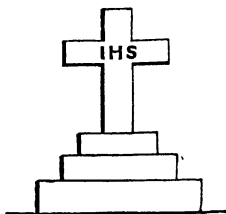
INSTRUCTIONS, PRAYERS,

AND

HOLY ASPIRATIONS

FOR

Afflicted Christians.



LONDON :

JOSEPH MASTERS, ALDERSGATE STREET,
AND 78, NEW BOND STREET;

C. MILLER, STOKE NEWINGTON.

TO
The Praise and Glory
OF
The All-Holy Trinity;
AND
FOR THE HELP OF THOSE WHO CHEERFULLY EMBRACE
THE
Cross of Jesus,
AND HUMBLY SEEK CONFORMITY TO
His Blessed Image,
THESE PAGES ARE PUBLISHED.





ADVERTISEMENT.

THE great comfort afforded to many sorrowing hearts by the "Devotions for the Sick Room," has induced me to put forth these *highest* aspirations of the saints of God. May He so bless these fervent prayers of His servants, that many hearts may be thereby quickened to more ardent desires after Him, and be brought to know the full blessedness of a deep and living Communion with JESUS, the ineffable Source of life and bliss.

The date affixed to this page will associate this work of love with that day of holy gladness, which will be long remembered by those who were present at the consecration of S. Augustine's College Chapel. And I would ask all who may profit by these pages, to pray for that "pious institution;" and for me also, that I may find mercy in the GREAT DAY of the LORD, and not stand condemned by the works of my own hands.

R. B.

S. Peter's day, 1848.

Miserere mei Domine Jesu.



A Prayer for S. Augustine's College.

Bless, O LORD, this place now set apart to Thy glory, and grant that Thy holy Name may be worshipped therein in truth and purity to all generations. Give grace and wisdom to all the Authorities, that they may exercise holy discipline, and be themselves patterns of holiness, simplicity, and self-denial. Bless all who may be trained therein. Take from them all pride, vanity, and self-conceit, and give them true humility and self-abasement. Enlighten their minds, Subjugate their wills, purify their hearts, and so penetrate them with Thy Spirit, and fill them with Thy love, that they may go forth animated with holy, prudent, burning zeal for Thy glory: and may Thy holy word so burn within their hearts, that they may speak with that resistless energy of love, which shall melt the hearts of sinners to the love of Thee. Bless, O LORD God, the Founders and Benefactors of this College, and recompense them with the riches of Thy everlasting kingdom, for JESUS' sake. *Amen.*



INSTRUCTIONS.

1. **WHEN** any sickness or calamity befalls you, receive it as a summons from your heavenly **FATHER**, and render humble and hearty thanks to Him for giving you this paternal visitation and warning.

2. Endeavour to have discreet and devout persons about you; and avoid those who would disturb your mind, or expose you to temptation, by drawing off your thoughts from heavenly things to idle, worldly gossip.

3. Be as careful to secure the assistance of a physician for your soul, as you are to have one for your body. Entreat him to deal faithfully with you; to show you the heinousness of your sins, and your unfaithfulness towards God your Redeemer; and whatsoever else he may consider for the good of your soul.

4. Humbly confess your sins—make restitution for any wrongs you may have done to others—seek to be reconciled to all with whom you are at variance—give such alms as you are able; and perform all other acts of piety and justice—then

5. Receive the Holy Communion with humility, fervour, and devotion; and resting in peace, hope, and confidence, cast all your sins, fears, cares, and sorrows, together with your whole soul, upon your loving and crucified Redeemer.

6. Desire your medical adviser, and friends, to be open and candid with you, and not to deceive or flatter you with vain hopes. Repay their faithfulness by calmness and resignation.

7. If your sickness be serious, make your will, and settle all your worldly affairs, so that your mind may be freed from all earthly cares.

8. During your sickness, ever remember, that it is your duty and privilege, first, to suffer patiently; secondly, to be willing to suffer more, if it be the will of your heavenly FATHER.

9. CHRIST's whole life was a cross and martyrdom, and do you seek rest and joy? Rather set yourself, as a good soldier, and faithful servant of CHRIST, to bear with fortitude the cross of the LORD, Who died for love of you.

10. Be quiet, obedient, and contented—not capricious in your diet, or impatient if you cannot pray, or sleep, or retain your medicine. Take all things necessary for your recovery without hesitation or repugnance.

11. Be not over anxious about your recovery, but leave yourself in the hands of that gracious FATHER, Physician, and Friend, Who sees you, loves you, and cares for you. Complain little, desire less, refuse nothing. Make no aggravations of what you suffer.

12. If you desire to have part with your LORD and Saviour, take all the troubles of life patiently; and partake freely of His bitter cup. Enter into His will concerning you, and pray for grace to bear, not only with patience, but with joy, every cross which He may lay upon you. Meditate much and often upon all the points of His most sacred Passion, that you may escape the snares of the devil; humbly beseeching your Saviour to pardon all your sins, and to cleanse your soul with His precious Blood.



PRAYERS.

Adoration of the most Holy Trinity.

I ADORE and praise Thee, O glorious and ever blessed Trinity; the FATHER, the only begotten SON, and the HOLY GHOST, the Comforter—One, Omnipotent, Eternal, unchangeable God, Creator of all things visible and invisible. I adore Thee, my hope, my light, my rest, my joy, my life, and every good. I give thanks to Thee, Who hast made me in Thine own Image, and sustained me notwithstanding my sins, and hast kept me from many dangers, and cherished me with innumerable benefits. I give up myself to do Thy will. *Amen.*

O FATHER of mercies, as an expiation and satisfaction for all my sins and negligences, I present, before Thee, the merits of the holy Incarnation, Nativity, Conversation, Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Thy dearly beloved SON JESUS CHRIST. I plead the merits of His infinite Virtues, and of all that He did and suffered for us—His labours, sorrows, mockings, scourgings, stripes, pains, and troubles—I plead the value of that most precious Blood which He poured out for us; and the virtue of His humility, patience, charity, and innocence. Keep me, I beseech Thee, O most merciful FATHER, by the same Thy SON JESUS CHRIST. Have mercy upon all sinners, and bring them to Thee. *Amen.*

O Holy Spirit, most gracious Comforter, proceeding from the FATHER and the SON, come, I beseech Thee, enlighten my mind, and cleanse me thoroughly from all sin, and sanctify my soul. Give me true humility, and resignation, that I may always please Thee, and Thou mayest always rest upon me. O blessed Light! Fountain of purest delights! My God, give me Thyself, and inflame my inmost soul with the fire of Thy love. O my God, teach, guide and protect me in all things. Give to me a right faith, unswerving hope, sincere, and perfect charity, that I may always do Thy most blessed will. *Amen.*

I adore Thee, O most blessed Trinity, the beginning and end of all things; praise, glory, and thanksgiving be unto Thee through eternal ages; for Thy holy Name is blessed and worthy to be praised, and Thy glory to be highly exalted world without end. Grant that I may neither think, desire, do, or say anything which may be displeasing to Thee; but do Thou sanctify all my thoughts, whether sleeping or waking, that I may ever show forth Thy praise. *Amen.*

A Confession of Sins.

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, my GOD! what shall I say? I bend the knee of my heart, and I acknowledge my sins; for I have sinned, and done evil before Thee, I have sinned against Thee, my most merciful Creator; I have sinned against Thee, my most gracious Redeemer; against Thee, my most loving Benefactor. Alas! I have been always exceedingly ungrateful and unfaithful to Thee. I am most vile, I am dust and ashes; I am nothing. Have mercy, have mercy, have mercy upon me. I hide all my most grievous

and manifold iniquities and negligences in Thy blessed wounds; I cast them into the fire of Thy love; I bury them in the infinite abyss of Thy compassion. O that I may never more offend Thee! Oh that I may never resist Thy grace in me! Oh that I may always please Thee, and be obedient to Thy inspirations, and to Thy holy will in all things! I resolve, by Thy grace, henceforth to avoid whatsoever may be displeasing to Thee. Holy JESUS, be propitious to me, through the merits of Thy most holy Humanity. Wash me in Thy precious Blood, and thoroughly cleanse me, and perfectly heal and sanctify me. *Amen.*

An Act of Self-Abasement.

Behold, adorable Saviour, I, an abominable sinner, put myself in the lowest place, below all creatures, for I am unworthy to dwell on the earth. I humble myself to all men, and make myself the servant of all. I embrace all with sincere charity, and chiefly those who have oppressed or persecuted me. I renounce, for love of Thee, all iniquity and vanity, all inordinate delight, all self-will and self-indulgence. I relinquish and reject all things which are contrary to Thee, and I choose Thee above all things, and resign myself wholly to Thee. I desire and beg that Thy most blessed will may be done in me and by me in time and eternity. I offer myself to Thee, to endure, by Thy grace, and for the glory of Thy Name, whatsoever ignominy and injury, whatsoever contempt, whatsoever opprobrium, whatsoever tribulation and pain may be appointed me. I refuse not to live (if it be Thy will) in the same poverty and affliction, in which Thou didst live. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Pardon.

O most merciful FATHER! I confess I have most grievously offended Thee, and have deserved Thy severest chastisements; but Thy mercy has spared me until now, that I may be converted and live. I am grieved that I have offended so gracious a GOD. Pardon me, O compassionate FATHER! pardon Thy repenting and returning child; for I would, if possible, undo all the evil I have ever thought, said, or done. Forget and forgive all the sins, ingratitude, and impurity of my whole life. I beseech Thee, O my ever blessed Creator, by the Passion of Thy dear SON, to pardon all the evil examples, and scandals which I have ever given to others; and I earnestly implore Thee, O blessed JESU! to forgive and wash away in Thy precious Blood, all the evil which, by my fault, they have incurred. And now, O LORD JESU, I lay the burden of my sins at Thy sacred Feet; resolving, by Thy gracious help, to pass on my pilgrimage in the perpetual practice of repentance, patience, and purity. Let me live and die in obedience and submission to Thy holy will and precepts. Let me never more offend Thee; for I resign myself to Thy sacred disposal for time and eternity—fully trusting that Thou wilt pardon all my sins, assist me in all my wants and weaknesses; and in the end bring me to Thy eternal bliss, by such means as Thy Divine wisdom sees to be most expedient for me. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Renewal.

I desire, O my LORD and Saviour, an entire reformation of my life, and an absolute change of my whole being. Grant me, I beseech Thee, O

loving LORD, the help of Thy special grace. O let me henceforth yield to Thy divine motions, obey Thy call, imitate Thy example, and do Thy holy will. Keep, I beseech Thee, my understanding, will, memory, imagination, and all my senses, and root out every thought and desire which is not to Thy glory, O LORD, my strength and salvation. *Amen.*

An Act of Trust in CHRIST's Passion.

In Thy infinite mercy, and in the merits of my gracious Redeemer, the LORD JESUS CHRIST, is all my hope and confidence ; and I humbly present His merits and Passion before the throne of Thy justice, O holy LORD GOD ! Lo, O LORD, this is all my trust, comfort, and confidence ; in this is all my hope and treasure, and in this will I rejoice for ever ; for of myself I am miserable, wretched, and wicked, having nothing to make me acceptable to Thy divine purity and infinite goodness. *Amen.*

A Thanksgiving for CHRIST's Sufferings.

I adore, I praise, I glorify Thee ; I bless and give thanks to Thee, O LORD JESU CHRIST, for all Thy mercies and benefits. I give thanks to Thee, O SON of the living GOD, GOD most High, Who by reason of the exceeding love with which Thou hast loved me, didst vouchsafe to become Man. For me Thou wast willing to be born in a stable, to be bound in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger—to suffer poverty and want, and to be wearied with multiplied labours and sorrows for three and thirty years. Thou wast willing to be covered, through agony, with a Bloody Sweat, to

be ignominiously seized, undeservedly bound, unjustly condemned, to be defiled with spittings, to be beaten on the face, and with fists, to be covered with a garment of ridicule, and mocked as foolish. Thou wast willing to be most cruelly torn with whips, crowned with thorns, barbarously fastened to the cross with nails, mercilessly to drink gall and vinegar. Thou, Who hast clothed the heavens with glory, didst for me hang upon the cross naked, despised, wounded, and afflicted with innumerable sorrows; for me Thou didst pour out Thy most precious Blood; for me Thou didst die. O blessed JESU, my only Salvation, grant that I may love Thee with the most fervent love, and most willingly suffer with Thee. For love of Thee I will embrace Thy cross with all the affections of my soul. *Amen.*

A Prayer to the Blessed JESUS.

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, my most gracious Creator, Redeemer, and Benefactor, Who graciously regardest those who call upon Thee, have mercy upon me now crying unto Thee. I cast all my sins of ingratitude, sensuality, anger, disobedience, levity, self-indulgence, and covetousness, into the Abyss of Thy Divine compassion; purify me, I beseech Thee, from all my sins, by Thy holy Incarnation, and Thy Passion. Cast down the hateful spirit of pride, so that it may have neither habitation nor dominion in me. Remove all haughtiness and arrogance of spirit, all ostentation and disdain. Break down, utterly, all hardness and obstinacy of spirit. Suppress the turbulent motions of impatience. Root out all contention and obstinacy, all sin and disobedience. Restrain all anger and malice. Extinguish all desire of vain-

glory, extirpate and destroy all the evil longings of wicked lusts. Take from me all deceit and hypocrisy ; and let no sign of a vain and conceited spirit ever appear in me. Take from me whatsoever in me may displease Thee, and give me that which will please Thee.

Grant me a chaste spirit, a meek and quiet spirit. Grant me purity and kindness of heart. Graft in my heart pure affections and fervent desires of serving Thee. Implant in me contempt of all vain and perishing things, and an ardent love of the heavenly country. Give me true humility, gentleness, and patience ; give me bountiful charity, compassion, and benevolence. Grant me holy discipline, sobriety, and chastity. Give me grace in every event of life entirely to hope and trust in Thee, and may Thy blessed will, and the appointment of Thy eternal providence always be my greatest consolation. Teach, enlighten, direct, help, protect, and keep me every hour, and every moment, that I may do those things which are acceptable unto Thee, and continually abide safe in Thee. *Amen.*

An Act of Faith.

Repeat the Apostles' Creed.

I believe, O eternal Truth, all that Thou hast declared in Thy holy word, and taught by Thy holy Church—quicken and renew Thine own gracious gift of faith in my soul, which is deadened by my wilful sin and negligence. O give me a fresh supply of celestial light and strength to guide and support me. LORD, increase my faith in all Thy gracious promises, and grant that I may live a life corresponding to my faith, and conformable to Thy merciful illuminations ; that

after the imperfect knowledge of this life I may finally arrive at the pure knowledge of Thee in the life to come ; where, with Thy saints, I hope to behold Thee face to face by the light of glory.
Amen.

Acts of Hope and Trust.

O my God, Thou hast graciously provided for me in prosperity and adversity, in health and sickness, in body and soul : to Thee, therefore, O my God, I commit myself, and all, to be disposed of now and ever as shall be most agreeable to Thy honour and glory, and most conformable to Thy will and providence. *Amen.*

I hope, O my LORD GOD, that this moment of pains and sufferings will be changed into an eternity of happiness. I trust that my now decaying body shall be one day raised to glory and immortality. *Amen.*

O LORD, my Saviour and my GOD, my Refuge and Hope, as the tired and thirsty hart pants for the water-courses, so pants my soul after Thee, O blessed Source of all comfort ; and when shall I attain to Thee, possess Thee, enjoy Thee ? Replenish now my soul with heavenly hope, that I may patiently and cheerfully expect the performance of Thy faithful and infallible promises. I will rely on Thee, in all the accidents of this my weary pilgrimage, in langour and health, in adversity and prosperity, life and death, for time and eternity—for when I consider Thy Fatherly providence, which satisfieth the desire of every living thing, providing for birds, beasts, fishes, insects, and plants, can I doubt Thy solicitude for my soul, which Thou hast made in Thine own image ?
Amen.

For the future, O my gracious Saviour, I will engrave on the door of my heart and mouth, "*the LORD will provide*;" fear not, my soul! our LORD governs thee, nothing can be wanting. God is for us. Who can be against us? He places us near Himself, let who will stretch their hands against us. Let man and devils, earth and hell fight against us; Thou, LORD, art my Captain, my Companion, and Comfort: Thou, O JESU! art my Victory, my Glory, my Crown: Thou, O CHRIST, art my Hope, my Help and Happiness; I will henceforth dread nothing but to displease Thee, nor desire anything but to love Thee. I will rest quiet and confident under Thy Fatherly care, and Almighty protection; come sickness or health, welcome darkness or light, joy or sorrow, plenty or penury, life or death, for I know Thou art truth itself, and can neither deceive, nor be deceived. *Amen.*

Fervent Acts of Love.

O God of love, what do I desire in heaven or earth beside Thee the supreme Object of my affections and desires. Come, O blessed LORD, and take full possession of my heart and soul, transform me into Thy love, and conform me to Thy will. Let Thy will be the only desire of my heart, and Thy love the life of my soul. *Amen.*

O my LORD, I ask Thee no increase of earthly treasure, no addition to my worldly goods, or honours; I only beg the riches of Thy love, that I may seek Thee in all, love Thee above all, and live content with Thee as my all in all. *Amen.*

I desire to love Thee, O LORD my God! O do Thou freely and fully possess my spirit, guide it,

govern it, enlighten it, elevate and transport it how and when Thou pleasest. Be Thou, O my Saviour, henceforth the chief Subject of my thoughts and Object of my love ; that I may be wholly dedicated to Thy love, honour, and service.

Feed, O eternal Shepherd, Thy poor servant. Enlighten my dark mind with the brightness of Thy Presence. Kindle my cold heart with the fire of Thy love. May the sweet influences of holy charity absorb me, and the desire of pure delights penetrate, purify, and ravish my whole soul, that I may ever seek after Thee, and cleave inseparably to Thee. *Amen.*

O abyss of love ! O JESUS, my God ! O Light of infinite Beauty ! shine upon me, now sighing after Thee, that the shadows of death may not encompass me. Behold, O LORD, I desire Thee. I cast myself wholly upon Thee. Grant that I may be filled with Thy love, for Thou art worthy of all love, and praise, and glory. Fill me with the streams of holy charity, and so possess me that my heart may ever sing sweet praises unto Thee. *Amen.*

O LORD, Who hast created and redeemed me ; and hast drawn me a thousand times from the jaws of hell, grant that I may love Thee in my inmost soul. May my whole spirit, and body, and my whole life praise Thee, O LORD, that I may be an acceptable sacrifice to Thee every moment, in which I enjoy the gifts of Thy compassion. I desire to be filled with Thee. I hold to Thee. I thirst after Thee. O possess my inmost soul without spot ; for a clean habitation is alone fit for Thee, the pure and holy LORD. *Amen.*

Shine upon me, O Thou Light of mine eyes ! Show Thyself to me, O Life of my soul ! my

great Delight, my desired Comfort! Thou art my Rest, my Glory, my Honour, and my sole Desire. May I hold Thee, my Beloved. May I feel Thee, my excellent Joy, within and without. May I possess Thee, O eternal Felicity! enjoy Thee, O everlasting Life, in my inmost heart. May I love Thee, my God, my Refuge, and my Deliverer. May I cleave to Thee, O my surest Hope, in all my tribulations. May I be filled with Thee, O eternal Good. Open my inmost ears, that I may hear Thy voice within; and in hearing it may rejoice and live in Thee. Give me a heart to fear Thee, a memory at all times to recollect Thee, a will which may indisputably cleave to Thee the chief Good. May my whole soul be possessed by Thee, and repose in Thee alone. *Amen.*

O my LORD GOD, give me a heart full of love and compassion to all men, that I may sympathize with them in their afflictions, and feel their calamities as my own; that I may bear with all their infirmities, cheerfully relieve, to the utmost of my power, all their necessities. O cleanse my soul from all evil passions and desires, that it may rise up to Thee, and cleave to Thee with the purest love. *Amen.*

O God! the Sovereign Joy of all spirits, and jubilation of all hearts! cheer me amid this world's calamities with the solid comfort of Thy satisfying Presence, grace, and love in my soul. O King of peace! give me peace in myself, by an absolute union of all my faculties to Thy glory; give me peace with the good, by conformity of my conversation with them; give me peace with the bad, by bearing the injuries they inflict on me;

give me peace with Thee, by an entire submission of all my wishes and desires to Thy holy will and decree. *Amen.*

Prayers for Humility.

O my LORD and my GOD! I most heartily acknowledge my baseness, misery, weakness, and wickedness. Behold me, O LORD, prostrate before Thy throne, like the poor publican, unworthy to lift my eyes towards heaven, or to take Thy sacred Name into my sinful lips. But what more can I do, O my Maker! than offer up to Thy Majesty an humble and contrite heart, prepared to suffer what Thou shalt please to appoint? Crucify me as Thou pleasest; and enable me to bear injuries, indignities, and contempt, and to root up all self-love, self-seeking, self-praise, and self-complacency. And do Thou pardon all my sins; let me live in Thy service, die in Thy favour, and enjoy Thy love for all eternity. *Amen.*

Behold, most merciful JESU, I cast myself at Thy sacred feet. O let not pride and presumption dwell any longer in my heart which Thou hast redeemed with Thy precious Blood. Give me, O gracious LORD! such true humility of spirit, that I may perceive my own nothingness and sinfulness, and rightly conceive the immensity of Thy greatness and goodness, that I may abase myself, and exalt Thee only in my soul. Let me hate all praise and honour, and say from my inmost heart, "I am nothing, I deserve nothing, and desire nothing but perfectly to please Thee, my Saviour; praise Thee perpetually, love Thee purely, and live with Thee eternally. *Amen.*"

*Ardent Desires of Conformity to the Blessed
JESUS.*

O Crucified Saviour! imprint Thine Image on my heart. Fasten my affections and imperfections to Thy cross. Hide all my sins and defects in Thy sacred Wounds. I confess I am wounded, and wicked, and I come tremblingly to Thee, my heavenly Physician, to be cured, converted, and comforted. O my Saviour, for Thy mercies' sake, and for Thy Passion's sake, forget and forgive what I have been, pity what I am, make satisfaction for what I deserve, and supply what I need. *Amen.*

All praise, honour, and glory be to Thee, O LORD JESUS CHRIST, Prince of Peace, Light of the nations, Who didst vouchsafe to be made man. Take from me all vanity, and self-conceit, and utterly root out the spirit of arrogance and vain glory. *Amen.*

All praise, honour and glory be to Thee, O LORD JESUS CHRIST, Who for our sakes wast tempted of the devil, and didst fast and pray in the wilderness for forty days, give me grace to mortify and subdue my flesh with its affections and lusts. Grant that I may be so diligent in prayer, and all spiritual exercises, that by the help of Thy grace I may resist all the wiles and snares of the devil, so that no temptations may defile me, or separate me from Thee, but rather drive me to Thyself. *Amen.*

All praise, honour, and glory be to Thee, O LORD JESUS CHRIST, Who wast smitten, buffeted, and scorned, I beseech Thee by Thy wounds, and Blood, and sorrows to have mercy upon me. Take full possession of my soul, that I may receive joy or sorrow, and all Thy chastisements, with a

cheerful and tranquil mind, that being dead to the world, I may live to Thee alone. *Amen.*

All praise, honour, and glory be to Thee, O LORD JESUS CHRIST, Who didst meekly bear revilings and false accusations. Give me grace to avoid all rash suspicions, unkind censures, and evil speakings. Grant that I may bear without bitterness or resentment, whatsoever may be said or done against me ; and give me the grace of a quiet and loving spirit. *Amen.*

O my Saviour, remove from me whatsoever is displeasing to Thee. Bend my depraved, unclean, and vain heart, and make it like Thine own. Give me holy affections and a pure mind. Embrace me in Thy love. Hold me with Thy divine Arm, that my soul may follow after Thee. Thy Goodness, O LORD, Thy Beauty and Glory, draw me powerfully to Thee, but unless Thou comest down to me, I cannot ascend to Thee. Humble Thyself, therefore, O Fountain of Mercy, into the depths of my weakness and misery, that rising up with Thee, I may love Thee with all my heart, and mind, and strength. *Amen.*

Holy JESUS ! may Thy all embracing love encompass me as a garment of grace, that my soul may appear before Thee clothed in beauty. Draw me up by devout contemplation. Lift up my spirit above the heights of the everlasting hills, lest I remain involved in the shadows of this world, far from Thee. Gladden my sorrowful heart with Thy blissful Presence. Pour forth Thy glorious light, and renew my soul by its brightness, to joy and exulting gladness. *Amen.*

Sanctify my heart, O LORD, I beseech Thee. Cast out all wickedness and fill it with Thy grace, and keep it full, that it may become a fit habitation for Thee. Banish the darkness of my mind.

Illuminate my soul that it may know itself and Thee. Teach, direct, and entirely possess me, that above all things in heaven and earth Thou mayest be the supreme desire of my heart. May I meditate on Thee day and night, with alacrity and gratitude, and ever converse with Thee. *Amen.*

O true Love! O eternal Light! JESUS my GOD! I cling to Thee. I gasp after Thee. I seek Thee, and desire to be filled with Thy presence and love. Thee do I desire above all. Pour into my heart the sweetness of holy charity. Penetrate and ravish my inward soul with the ineffable virtue of Thy love. I am oppressed with the troubles of this life; grant me renewed strength, that I may fly up to Thee, even to the place of the habitation of Thy holy glory. And may I there rest under the shadow of Thy wings, above the tumults of earthly thoughts. *Amen.*

Renew, O LORD GOD, a right spirit within me. Let justice regulate all my actions; truth be the touchstone of my words, and sincerity pervade all my thoughts. O let me never slight, scorn, suspect, judge, or condemn any; but sincerely seek the temporal and spiritual good of all men. Give me grace, O LORD JESUS, thus to imitate Thy virtues, to be grateful for Thy gifts, and to be thankful for Thy goodness. *Amen.*

O gracious Redeemer! take from me all negligence, and deadness of heart, all covetous desires, all impurity, and intemperance. Purge me, O Almighty LORD! Purify me, O my merciful Saviour! Give strength to my frail nature, that I may pass safely through all dangers. Grant me, O my LORD, chastity of body, and cleanness of

heart ; temperance and sobriety ; that nothing in me may displease Thee, or separate my soul from Thee, its only comfort and support. *Amen.*

O crucified JESU ! hide me in Thy wounded Side : cleanse me in that precious Blood streaming from Thy pierced Heart, and fill mine with Thy perfect love, that I may ever be seeking after Thee, my LORD, and my Saviour. Conform my heart to Thee, that I may be Thine for ever, and may truly love all men in Thee and for Thee. O inflame my love, quicken my faith, rectify my intentions, strengthen my confidence in Thee, destroy all self-complacency, and establish me in all goodness and sanctity. So elevate my soul above all changes and accidents, that I may always realize Thy divine Presence, and be so absorbed in Thy love, that no outward things may trouble me, no inferior cares entangle me, nor any thing impede the sweet influences of Thy Divine grace. Hear me, O Lamb of God, and help me ; and be Thou my Comfort, during my earthly pilgrimage, and my Sanctuary in the hour of death. *Amen. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

*The Saviour on the Cross, the Teacher of
Resignation and Patience.*

All CHRIST's actions are our instructors ; and as His life is the chief exemplar of holy living, so His death is the perfect pattern of happy dying, which He exhorts all Christians to imitate, saying, "*Take up thy Cross, and follow Me.*"

O my soul ! how little have we imitated our blessed Saviour in His life, manners, and conver-

sation! Let us, at least, strive to imitate Him in His death, by taking *patiently this present Cross*, which He lays upon me, and following Him cheerfully to mount Calvary.

1. *The blessed JESU suffered willingly, patiently, and resignedly.*

O my God! give me health or sickness; life or death, give me whatsoever Thou pleasest; not my will but Thine be done.

Let me receive, O my Saviour! as from Thy wise Providence, not only patiently, but thankfully, all pain, all poverty, all shame, all sickness, and all sufferings whatsoever; acknowledging that I truly deserve worse, and desiring willingly to endure more, so that I may be more perfectly conformed to Thine Image.

O JESU! by virtue of Thy perfect resignation to the will of Thy FATHER, strengthen mine now, and in the hour of death.

2. *My dying Saviour wept for my sins, and prayed to His FATHER to forgive them.*

O my soul! shall thy Saviour alone be sensible of thy sinful condition, and remainest thou insensible? O my God! I have grievously sinned against Thee; O merciful LORD, hide not Thyself from me. Give to my understanding light to see and know my faults; to my heart sorrow to hate and detest them, tears to weep for them, and a sincere and entire confession of them. I humbly acknowledge my vileness, and heartily implore Thy pardon—pleading the merits of Thy dear SON's most sacred Passion. O my Crucified JESU! my only Hope and Refuge. Bathe my soul in Thy Blood, beautify me with Thy merits, bless me with Thy grace. By all the pains of Thy Body, and agonies of Thy Soul; by all the mercies of Thy Divinity, and merits of Thy humanity,

cleanse, quiet, clothe, and comfort my sinful, wretched, and wounded soul. *Amen.*

3. JESUS *on the Cross forgave His enemies, loved them, and prayed for them.*

O JESU, my Saviour! forgive, and purge away, my manifold sins of malice and injustice; with all my faults of hypocrisy and ingratitude, falsehood and unfaithfulness, rancour and revenge. Let the fountain of Thy love and mercy, O LORD JESUS, extend itself towards all my kindred, friends, and enemies (*especially —*). I freely, from my heart forgive them, and humbly beseech Thee, O my LORD, to give them all heavenly blessings, and bring them to Thy heavenly kingdom. *Amen.*

4. JESUS *commended His dying soul into the hands of His heavenly FATHER.*

“Into Thy hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit! for Thou hast redeemed me, O LORD Thou God of truth.” Thou, O heavenly FATHER, art its Creator; O let it sweetly return to Thee as its end and felicity! I am altogether Thine; O do not now reject me, but receive and possess me, and take me wholly to Thyself for evermore. *Amen. Alleluia.*

O sacred Trinity! Who art goodness itself! have mercy upon me a miserable sinner. O most loving FATHER! have pity upon Thy helpless child, and forsake me not in my last and greatest need. O gracious Saviour JESU, SON of the living God, I beseech Thee, by the virtue of Thy most blessed and bitter Passion, grant me Thy grace, pardon all my sins, and vouchsafe me a portion of Thy glory. *Amen. Amen.*

A pleading of the merits of CHRIST'S Passion.

O blessed JESU, my Saviour! the Helper and

Comforter of all distressed souls! Behold Thy unworthy servant humbly prostrate at Thy feet, deploring my misery, imploring Thy mercy, and beseeching Thee to have pity and compassion on me in this my pressing affliction of (——). Hear my prayers, O Thou Refuge of sinners! behold my tears, consider my sorrows, and help me out of my distresses; for encompassed with calamities by reason of my great sins, I can flee for succour to Thee alone, my meek and merciful Saviour, with a full confidence that Thou wilt hear, pity, and help me. By the awful anguish of Thy untold Agony—by the outrageous injuries, cruel blows, blasphemies, false accusations and unjust judgments, which Thou, O innocent Lamb of God, didst patiently endure, *Have pity upon me.*

By Thy bonds and scourging, and by Thy precious Blood, *Have pity and save me.*

By the fears, sorrows, and griefs of Thy sacred heart, by the shame to which Thou wast exposed in the sight of all the people, *Have pity and save me.*

By Thy crown of thorns, by Thy thirst upon the cross, by Thy five sacred wounds, wherewith Thy holy hands, and feet, and side were most cruelly pierced for love of me, *Have pity and save me.*

By Thy love for Thine enemies, by Thy mercy to the penitent thief, by Thy death and burial, *Have pity and save me.*

By the glory of Thy Resurrection, by Thy triumphant Ascension into heaven, by Thy all-prevailing Intercession, by the coming of the HOLY GHOST, *Good LORD, deliver and save me.*

By all these sorrows, joys, passions, and compassions, have pity upon me, O compassionate

Redeemer! hear my prayer, and grant all my petitions.

A Prayer.

Give me, O gracious Saviour, a sense of Thy divine succour. Bestow on me a constant faith, a sure and well-grounded hope, and fervent charity—true contrition—contempt of the world, conquest over my sins and evil passions, a mortification of my self-will, and a zealous imitation of Thy holy life and conversation, final perseverance unto the end, and a holy and happy death, without sin and shame, and, if it please Thee, without pain. Amen. Even so, come, LORD JESUS.

Fervent Aspirations after Paradise.

O most gracious LORD JESUS, my heart sighs after Thee, for Thou art exceeding glorious, and worthy to be praised. Thou art the Fountain of ineffable delights. My soul is overpowered with the thoughts of the surpassing glory and riches of Thy blessed kingdom, and the inexhaustible felicity of Thy saints. Thy loveliness draws my soul after Thee, and I long to behold the bright radiance of Thy glorious Countenance. O when shall I perfectly know Thee, and be satisfied with Thy fulness? When wilt Thou break all snares, and remove all temptations, and draw me to Thyself, so that I may no longer sin against Thee? O my Saviour, lift up, I beseech Thee, lift up my poor soul from the dust; and receive me into Thy heavenly kingdom, that I may there praise Thee with never-ending songs, for all the good things which Thou hast freely given me, O Thou my only Salvation. Amen.

O most gracious God, I earnestly desire to be with Thee, and to behold Thy most loving Countenance. When shall I return from this exile, to my true and heavenly home? To that most blessed region where the most serene light for ever shines? Where the exceeding loveliness of spring, and the richest glories of summer ever remain in an infinite degree? Where the most wondrous and transporting melody for ever resounds. With Thee, O LORD GOD, is a Paradise of intellectual pleasure, and of great delights, such as the eye of man hath not seen, neither his ear heard, nor his heart conceived. In Thy Presence are streams of deepest gladness, refreshing and soothing the soul with inexpressible loveliness and beauty. With Thee is the Fountain of Life, glory ineffable, and peace serene, and undisturbed. What, therefore, can I desire beside Thee, Who art all in all? Grant that I may love nothing in comparison with Thee, and that I may at length possess Thee, my only true and everlasting Good. *Amen.*

I believe, O my Saviour, what I do not see. I believe that the riches, joys, and pleasures of Thy heavenly kingdom are boundless and eternal. Grant me, O LORD, an abiding faith, that I may one day behold what I now believe. When, O blessed JESU, shall my body return to the dust, and my soul return to Thee, its Creator and Life? When shall my soul sleep and rest in Thee, and openly behold Thy glorious beauty? O how good is it to see Thy face and dwell with Thee. O grant that I may so live here as to be fitted for Thy glory hereafter. In the hour of death may I know Thee to be near me. Say then unto my soul, I am Thy loving Creator and Redeemer, who, through the sorrows of death, have sought and found Thee.

Fear not, thou shalt ever be with Me. Do Thou graciously receive my soul into Thy blessed mansions of everlasting peace and brightness. There, O my Saviour, console me with Thy loving Presence. Fill me with the breathing of Thy Spirit, and the perfect fruition of Thy glorious Godhead, that I may live in Thee, exult in Thee, and render Thee the sweet sacrifice of praise for ever. *Amen.*

O JESUS CHRIST, Thou chief Good, excite in my soul the most ardent desires after Thee, that I may continually aspire after the blessed mansions of Thy everlasting home. Place my weary soul in Thy most desired pastures, by the purest fountains of Thy pleasures, that there refreshed with heavenly delights, it may quickly forget the miseries of this sinful life. *Amen.*

HOLY THOUGHTS

To be suggested by attendant friends, to one who is too weak to read, &c.

1. Take courage, (*dear brother or sister,*) and suffer patiently for a little while. JESUS died for you, be not afraid to die with Him, for though your sins are very great, yet His loving mercy is greater.

2. Though your tongue is put to silence, yet let your heart speak lovingly to your compassionate Redeemer, O JESU! *Thy will be done!* O my LORD, *I love Thee, I adore Thee, I thank Thee for all Thy goodness; and I beseech Thee, O my merciful Creator, that every thought and desire of my heart may be acceptable to Thee.*

3. Lift up your heart to your Saviour while I recite what He did, said, and suffered for your sake.

I have heartily desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. S. Luke xxii. 15. Mark these ardent and affectionate expressions of your dear Redeemer ; He has still the same love and desire for you ; and it is His will that you should celebrate His feast in Paradise.

4. *This is My Body, which is given for you.* S. Luke xxii. 19. O the height and depth of the love of GOD ! Yet how backward hast thou been to receive His Body and Blood, which is the true communion with thy LORD and Saviour ! How cold have been your desires after His precious blood, which purchased the remission of your sins ! Ought you not to receive this holy communion as your last act ?

5. *I go to prepare a place for you—I will come again and receive you unto Myself: that where I am there ye may be also.* S. John xiv. 2, 3. O cheering words ! for you this kingdom is prepared ; what mighty rewards does GOD bestow on them that love Him. Pass to thy reward cheerfully, and humbly trusting in the merits of thy Saviour.

6. *Pray, lest ye enter into temptation.* S. Luke xxii. 46. Reflect on these words, and if the enemy tempt you, lift up your heart to JESUS for deliverance.

7. *And being in an agony He prayed yet more earnestly ; and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood.* S. Luke xxii. 44. O how heinous is sin, which inflicts such agonies on the SON of GOD ! If you are truly penitent, this Blood will wash away your sins, sweeten your pains, and smooth the valley of the shadow of death.

8. *And the LORD looked upon Peter*, S. Luke xxii. 61, after he had denied Him. O what comforting words! And can you doubt but that JESUS beholds you, stretched upon this bed of suffering, humbly adoring and loving Him?

9. Adore, then, your dear Saviour, dying on the cross for you; and trust in His infinite merits and mercies. Hide in His sacred wounds, and say with the publican, *O my GOD, be merciful to me a sinner.*

10. Cry out with the blind man, *JESUS Thou Son of David, have mercy upon me.*

Address yourself to the Eternal FATHER with the words of the dying JESUS, *FATHER, into Thy hands I commend my spirit.*

To be said for one in the agony of Death.

O most compassionate JESU! take pity upon *him*.

O JESU! the Redeemer, Lover, and Life of souls, have mercy on *him*.

O JESU! the Comforter of all desolate sinners, comfort, encourage, defend, and strengthen *him* in this *his* greatest need.

Let us pray.

O FATHER of mercies, and GOD of all consolation, we most humbly address our petitions to Thy throne of grace, in behalf of this our dying *brother*; beseeching Thee, by the immensity of Thy mercy, and the infinity of Thy SON's merits; to pardon *his* sins, to mitigate *his* pains, to grant *him* patience and perseverance in Thy grace and love, unto the end, and then to receive *his* departing soul into Thy paternal care and protection, through JESUS CHRIST our Advocate and Saviour. *Amen.*

COMMUNION OF THE SICK.

Come to this divine Table, O devout soul !

1. As a sick man to his Physician.

2. As an unfaithful servant to his LORD and Master ; promising amendment, and begging pardon and reconciliation.

3. As a prodigal child to his tender and compassionate Father, to be received and revived by His bounty.

4. As a friend to a Friend, Who thus lovingly invites him, " Come, My friend, I will refresh and renew you. Come with confidence, and sit down at My table."

5. As a rebellious sinner to his merciful Redeemer, resolving to honour Him, love Him, and serve Him better for the future.

6. As a wounded and wearied hart thirsting for the water-brooks, desiring JESUS the Fountain of life and love.

7. Imagine yourself seated at the Table with Thy blessed Saviour in His last supper ; and that Thou receivest from His sacred hands, His precious Body and Blood, which He gives thee, saying, "Take, eat, this is My Body and Blood, which I here give thee ; remember this, My love and liberality, and go in peace. I am with thee, be not afraid." "Come to Me, your Saviour and Physician. Have you sinned ? I will forgive you. Are you sick and wounded ? I will comfort and cure you. Are you troubled and tempted ? I will help and deliver you. Are you weary and ready to faint under your burden ? I will nourish and strengthen you. Are you cold, dark, and desolate ? I will inflame, enlighten, and revive you."

*An Act of Self-Renunciation preparatory to
receiving the holy Communion.*

"The whole need not a Physician, but they that are sick," and such am I, a diseased sin-sick soul ; and as sick I now go to my Physician ; as a sinner, to the Redeemer of fallen man ; as miserable, to the FATHER of mercy ; as unclean, to the Fountain of purity ; as poor and needy, to the LORD of all bounty ; as blind and ignorant, to the Brightness and Splendour of spirits ; as infirm and weak, to the Strength of Israel. And oh that it may please Thee, to enlighten my darkness, heal all my infirmities, to enrich my poverty, to strengthen my weakness, to wash away all my uncleanness, and by the Communion of Thy precious Body and Blood to cleanse me from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, that I may "perfect holiness in Thy fear," through JESUS CHRIST. *Amen.*

Confession and Contrition.

I come to this Sacrament, O my Saviour ! in obedience to Thy gracious invitations and commands ; and in confidence in Thy saving mercies. O my LORD, behold my wounds, and my wants. I remain still ungrateful, wicked, cold, unmortified, full of pride, passion, and imperfection, for which I am heartily sorry, and purpose amendment. And I beseech Thee, O LORD JESU, for Thine own goodness' sake, mercifully to forgive me, and to cure and consume all that is displeasing to Thee. *Amen.*

Short Prayers.

Grant me, O LORD, not only to receive this Sacrament in the outward elements, but in the virtue and power thereof; not bread and wine only, but the Body and Blood of my Saviour, to the remission of all my sins, and to all other benefits of His death and passion. *Amen.*

O Thou true Light; kindle my reins and my heart, that they may glow with love to Thee. *Amen.*

O Thou, Who art the living Bread, that givest life unto them that love and fear Thee, cleanse me from all defilement of flesh and spirit. Enter my soul, heal and cleanse me within and without. Be the protection and continual health of my soul and body for ever. *Amen.*

O Bread of life! which camest down from heaven to give life unto the world, give Thyself to my soul, that I may live by Thee, in Thee, and for Thee; by Thy grace, in Thy favour, and for Thy glory. *Amen.*

Bow down Thine ear, O LORD, and hear me, for I am poor and in misery. Refresh my hungry soul with the Bread of heaven, that in the strength of that Food, I may go through the wilderness of this world, even unto the mount of God, until Thou shalt satisfy me with Thyself, so that I shall neither hunger nor thirst any more.

None can worthily partake of this Sacrament unless Thou, O God Almighty, make him worthy. By Thy almighty power, I beseech Thee, grant to me, a sinner, to approach this holy feast with fear and trembling, with purity of heart, with spiritual gladness, and heavenly joy: that I may be filled with the satisfying fulness of Thy most blessed Presence. I pray Thee that Thou

wouldst vouchsafe to bring me, a sinner, to that ineffable feast, where Thou, with Thy SON, and the HOLY SPIRIT, art to Thy holy ones, true Light, everlasting Fulness and Joy, pleasure consummated, and perfect happiness, through JESUS CHRIST our LORD and GOD, our hope, confidence, and rest; our refuge, our help, our wisdom, and portion for ever, even unto ages of ages. *Amen.*

NOTE.—Those who desire fuller prayers on this subject, will find such in “*Devotions for the Sick Room,*” and in various excellent Manuals.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.

“ But if a man, either by reason of extremity of sickness, or for want of warning in due time to the Curate, or for lack of company to receive with him, or by any other just impediment, do not receive the Sacrament of CHRIST’S Body and Blood, the Curate shall instruct him, that if he do truly repent him of his sins, and steadfastly believe that JESUS CHRIST hath suffered death upon the Cross for him, and shed His Blood for his redemption, earnestly remembering the benefits he hath thereby, and giving Him hearty thanks therefore, he doth eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour CHRIST profitably to his soul’s health, although he do not receive the Sacrament with his mouth.”

As often, then, as thou shalt dispose thyself for such Communion, thou wilt find the SON of GOD ready, to give Himself to thee for thy spiritual food.

By way of preparation turn to Him with thy whole heart, and after a brief review of thy failings, mourn over thine offences, and beseech Him, in all humility and faith, that He would deign to come into thy soul with new grace, to heal and strengthen it against the enemy.

But if thou wouldst prepare thyself, and communicate spiritually in a more solemn manner, begin from the preceding evening to direct all thy acts of virtue or mortification, and all other good works to this end, i.e., the spiritual reception of thy LORD.

And early in the morning, strive to inflame thy heart with a great desire to receive Him, by a consideration of the great happiness and benefit of the soul that worthily receives the holy Sacrament; for thereby lost virtue is regained, the soul recovers her former beauty, and the fruits and merits of the Passion of the SON of GOD are communicated to her.

The desire for it being thus enkindled within thee, turn to Him and say, "Since, LORD; I am not permitted this day to receive Thee sacramentally, vouchsafe, O Power and Goodness Incarnate, to pardon and cleanse me from all my faults, that I may worthily receive Thee spiritually, not now only, but every day and every hour; and grant me grace and strength to resist all my enemies. *Amen.*"

A Prayer.

O gracious Saviour, I desire to be united to Thee, the source of life and love. Come and destroy within me the tyranny of sin and self-love, and establish there the reign of Thy grace and charity. I am unworthy of receiving Thy holy Sacrament; but in mercy grant me to partake of Thy Spirit and of Thy virtues, through the desire I have of receiving Thee in the holy Eucharist. I cannot leave Thee, nor live without Thee, my Saviour. Thou only canst satisfy my heart, and make me happy. Come Thou, O LORD, and

purify my heart from all vain love, for my heart was made to love and possess Thee, and Thou only canst satisfy and fill it. O God, worthy of all love, O God, Who art love, can I know Thee and not love Thee? love Thee and not burn with desire to receive Thee on earth, and to see and possess Thee in heaven? Even so come, LORD JESUS.

The preceding Prayers will be found appropriate for Spiritual Communion.

All Praise and Glory

be to

Thee, O most adorable Trinity,

Our God,

WHOM THE ANGELS AND INTELLECTUAL POWERS ABOVE, GLORIFY WITHOUT CEASING, CELEBRATING IN THRICE-HOLY HYMNS, THE UNITY IN TRINITY AND TRINITY IN UNITY. WITH THESE BLESSED POWERS, O GRACIOUS LORD GOD, WE UNWORTHY SINNERS UNITE, AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THOU ART TRULY HOLY, AND MOST WORTHY TO BE PRAISED, FOR IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND TRUE JUDGMENT THOU HAST DONE ALL THINGS. WE BOW DOWN, BOTH SOUL AND BODY, AND ADORE THEE, O FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST; ONE GOD. WE PRAISE THEE, O ALMIGHTY KING OF HEAVEN; AND ALL THE DAYS OF OUR LIVES WILL WE BLESS AND MAGNIFY THY NAME, O MOST HOLY, MOST GLORIOUS LORD GOD ALMIGHTY.

Raise us, O Lord,

to

Thine unspeakable Glory.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.



